

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- |1. (Original) A process for gelatinising starch and/or a starch derivative by subjecting starch and/or a starch derivative in the presence of a carbohydrate polymer or synthetic polymer to a thermo mechanical treatment, which carbohydrate polymer or synthetic comprises aldehyde containing monomer units, whereby at least 1 % of the aldehyde containing monomer units comprise one or more aldehyde group per monomer unit which one or more aldehyde groups are derived from one or more primary alcohol groups.
2. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein the one or more aldehyde groups are derived from one or more primary alcohol groups at the C-6 position.
3. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein 1-50 % of the aldehyde containing monomer units comprise one or more aldehyde groups per monomer unit.
4. (Original) A process according to claim 3, wherein 1-20 % of the aldehyde containing monomer units comprise one or more aldehyde groups per monomer unit.

5. (Currently Amended) A process according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein the aldehyde containing monomer units in the carbohydrate polymer comprise in addition a cleaved vicinal diol system.

6. (Currently Amended) A process according to any one of claims 1-5, wherein the carbohydrate polymer comprises α-1,4-glucans (the "starch family"), β-1, 4-glucans (cellulose), glucomannans and galactomannans (guar and locust bean gum), arabinoxylans and xylans (hemicellulose) and β-2, 1 and β-2,6-fructans (inulin and levan)

7. (Original) A process according to claim 6, wherein the carbohydrate polymer comprises starch, cellulose, fructans, hemi-cellulose, and/or galactomannans.

8. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1-7~~ claim 1, wherein the one aldehyde group is introduced in the monomer unit by means of protected aldehydes (acetals) or substituted unsaturated functionalities followed by oxidation through hindered nitroxyl mediated oxidation.

9. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1-8~~ claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate polymer is present in an amount of from 1 to 100 weight %,

based on the total weight of the starch and/or starch derivative and the carbohydrate polymer or synthetic polymer.

10. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1-9~~ claim 1, wherein the thermo mechanical treatment is carried out at a temperature in the range of from 80- 130°C.

11. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1-10~~ claim 1, wherein the thermo mechanical treatment is carried out continuously.

12. (Original) A granulate of thermoplastic starch that comprises a carbohydrate polymer or a synthetic polymer in an amount in the range of from 3 to 75 weight %, based on total thermoplastic starch, a polyol or urea as plasticer and water, which carbohydrate polymer or synthetic polymer comprises aldehyde containing monomer units, whereby at least 1 % of the aldehyde containing units comprise one or more aldehyde groups per monomer unit which one or more aldehyde groups are derived from one or more primary alcohol groups.

13. (Original) A shaped starch product that comprises thermoplastic starch and a carbohydrate polymer or a synthetic polymer, wherein the carbohydrate polymer or

synthetic polymer is present in an amount in the range of from 3 to 75 weight %, based on total thermoplastic starch, a polyol or urea as plasticer and water, which carbohydrate polymer or synthetic polymer comprises aldehyde containing monomer units, whereby at least 1% of the aldehyde containing units comprise one or more aldehyde groups per monomer unit which one or more aldehyde groups are derived from one or more primary alcohol groups.

14. (Original) A blown starch film that comprises a thermoplastic starch and a carbohydrate polymer or a synthetic polymer, wherein the carbohydrate polymer or synthetic polymer is present in an amount in the range of from 3 to 75 weight %, based on total thermoplastic starch, a polyol or urea as plasticer and water, which carbohydrate polymer or synthetic polymer comprises aldehyde containing monomer units, whereby at least 1% of the aldehyde containing units comprise one or more aldehyde groups per monomer unit which one or more aldehyde groups are derived from one or more primary alcohol groups.

15. (Currently Amended) A starch or starch product according to ~~any one of claims 12-14~~ claim 12 comprising in addition a polyester.

16. (Original) A food product that comprises a food component and a carbohydrate polymer or a synthetic polymer, which carbohydrate polymer or synthetic polymer comprises aldehyde containing monomer units, whereby at least 1 % of the

aldehyde containing monomer units comprise one or more aldehyde groups per monomer unit which one or more aldehyde groups are derived from one or more primary alcohol groups.